

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
020533.0240 (2001P21477US)PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO
09/726,766**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-24, 26-33, 35-45 are now pending in the application. In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Claims 1, 12, 19, and 33 have been amended to place them in better condition for appeal.

Rejection of Claims 1-45 Under § 103

Claims 1, 3-24, 26-33, 35-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Araujo et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,301,229 (hereinafter Araujo) in view of Inoue et al, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0007414 (hereinafter Inoue). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Cited References Do Not Teach All of the Limitations

Neither Aroujo nor Inoue teaches or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, 12, 19, 24, and 33. Inoue discloses encapsulating a request message into something else. Claims 1, 12, 19, 24, and 33, on the other hand, teach the opposite: encapsulating something else into the request message. In other words, Inoue discloses encapsulating a DHCP request within an IP header (see Fig. 9; page 7, paragraph 82). Claims 1, 12, 19, and 24 on the other hand, recites "encapsulat[ing] ... signal within a ... request header." Claim 33 similarly recites a "signal encapsulated within ... response header." Based on at least this difference between the cited references and the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 12, 19, 24, and 33 are patentable.

The remaining claims 3-11, 13-18, 20-23, 26-32, 35-45 depend from independent claims 1, 12, 19, 24, and 33. Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims are patentable over Aroujo and Inoue at least for the same reasons as discussed above.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-24, 26-33, 35-45. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this paper or application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve such issue or question. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/9/04

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